hand and making available fertilizers to the farmers at a reasonable price on the other. However, the time frame for decontrol and deregulation of distribution of urea is not firmed up as yet.

Formation of Eastern Gas Grid/LNG terminal

1672. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibilities of forming an Eastern Gas Grid or a LNG terminal to cater to the need of feedstock for production of urea in Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the present status of the same and whether Durgapur and Haldia plants of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation would be rehabilitated, by using LNG as feedstock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Government had constituted a Core Group to explore the possibility of import of LNG for manufacture of Fertilizers in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Core Group, the proposal for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report for the import of LNG for manufacture of Fertilizers is being processed by the Government.

The revamp of Haldia Project of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFC) has not been found to be techno- economically viable. Accordingly, it has been decided to close/hive off the Haldia Project. The rehabilitation of Durgapur unit is dependent on the decision of the competent authority in the Government and the sanction of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Purchase of DAP by NFL

1673. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizers Ltd. had signed a contract on 20th June, 1995 to purchase one lakh MT of DAP with a foreign company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that second consignment was sold on high sea;

(c) if so, the loss suffered by the company; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. M/s National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) had placed order on M/s Emirates Trading Agency LLC, Dubai, (UAE) for supply of one lakh MTs of DAP on CIF basis at the rate of US $ 256 PMT with delivery schedule between July to Oct. 1995.

(b) M/s National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) had sold the third consignment of 36,299.859 MTs of DAP to the supplier on high sea basis at the same rate of US $ 256.00 PMT.

(c) The Company suffered loss of Rs. 1,05,44,558.25 due to exchange rate variation (Rs. 33,70,185.00) and interest loss (Rs. 71,74,373.25) on cash credit availed for the purchase.

(d) DAP being decontrolled and decanalised fertilizer, it is freely importable. The imports of DAP were made by National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) on the basis of their commercial assessment. The Government has no direct role in such transactions which are decided by the management of the company in consultation with its Board of Directors.

Closure of FCI unit situated in Barauni (Bihar)

†1674. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India situated in Barauni (Bihar) having production capacity of three lakh metric tonnes has been lying closed since last year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the loss being caused thereby every month;

(c) the total number of workers in the above unit, alongwith category-wise details thereof; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government for revival of the above unit and by when it is targeted to be revived?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.